ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
BIG BEAR CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Held With

Duncan Creek Church, Franklin Co., Ala.

Commencing on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1898.

Officers:

ELD. J. S. STOCKTON, MODERATOR.	PLEASANT SITE, ALA.
J. A. O. BOLDING, CLERK.	PLEASANT SITE, ALA.

Executive Board:

J. M. THORN, CH'M.,	BURLESON, ALA.
J. M. YOCUM, SEC'Y.,	BEESON, ALA.
W. N. NARMORE.	CHEROKEE, ALA.
Wm. PACE,	RUSSELLVILLE, ALA.
H. A. MALONE.	RUSSELLVILLE, ALA.

1899.
John M. Summers' Excelsior Print.
Looling, Ala.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory sermon at 11 o'clock, a. m. Saturday.
2. The Moderator shall call the association together by singing and prayer, and appoint raeding clerks.
3. Read letters from the churches and enroll the delegates.
4. Elect officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Call for correspondence from other bodies.
7. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
8. Appoint committees, to wit: 1. On devotional exercises. 2. On documents. 3. On destitutions. 4. On finance. 5. On publications. 6. On sabbath schools. 7. On temperance. 8. On state of religion. 9. On missions. 10. On education.
9. Call for raport of missionaries.
10. Elect missionaries for next year.
11. Report of standing committees.
12. Report of other committees in their order.
13. Report of executive board.
14. Miscellaneous business.
15. Elect place to hold next association.
16. Elect preacher to preach introductory sermon.
17. Read the minutes, sing, pray and adjourn.

——O——

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

M J Pace	Russellville.	N R E Johnson	Tuscumbia.
B H James	Russellville.	T H McDonald	Tuscumbia.
S W Lee	Sprnce Pine.	T D Newell	Philcampbell.
R A Gowder	Hackleburg.	W H Camp	Tuscumbia.
M W Daily	Looling.	J E Miller	Burleson.
B G Harden	Fordton.	F M Jackson	Russellville.
J S Stockton	Pleasant Site.	W C Summers	Littleville.
A Smith	Barton.	T M Johnson	Russellville.
W L Andrews	Tuscumbia.		

Langsing Burrus,

Augusta,

Georgia.

Dear Bro,

Your card to hand,
and contents noted. In reply,
will say I am not at this time
in connection with Big Bear Duck
Association, for 1898.
Though I have believed a minute,
and send you same.
Here is my address,

John. R. McSmith.

Summers P.O.

Lawrence Cty. — Va.

MINUTES.

The delegates composing the sixty-third annual session of the Big Bear Creek Baptist Association met with Duncan Creek Church, Franklin Co., Ala., on Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1898. The annual sermon was delivered by Elder J. S. Stockton, text: St. John 3rd 3rd. Closed with prayer by Elder W. C. Summers, and adjourned for an hour to enjoy refreshments.

Afternoon Session.

After feasting upon the much enjoyed dinner furnished by the good people of Duncan Creek Church and vicinity, the Association met at the appointed time, prayer by Eld. J. S. Stockton. In the absence of the Moderator and Clerk, Elder J. S. Stockton was elected Moderator and J. A. O. Bolding Clerk pro tempore, and Brethren J. O. A. Pace and T. V. Shoemaker were appointed rending clerks, and letters from the churches were read and names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Burleson—J. M. Thorn, Robert White, John Lindsey and J. R. Thorn.

Bethlehem—J. M. Yocum, G. B. Smith and J. J. Yocum.

Mt. Moriah—M. L. Counts, Wm. M. Willis, H. R. Meadows, Newton Hand and James Hand.

Harmony—J. S. Stockton, J. A. Parrish, J. A. O. Bolding and J. H. Riggs.

Bethel No. 2—W. C. Grissom, W. H. Barber, W. M. Dhority and Joe Dhority.

Mt. Zion—J. A. Dobbins, J. N. Smith, J. W. Thorn and Richard James.

New Friendship—G. Dill, J. W. Bragwell and F. Reid.

Union—John Bohannan, Houston McKinney and Calaway McKinney.

Spring Hill—M. V. Borden, G. M. Worhurst and J. M. Watson.

Evening Shade No. 1—Deck Hester, J. W. Rikard and J. L. Jackson.

Lane Springs—W. N. Narmore, M. C. Campbell and G. W. Johnson.

Mt. Pisgah—J. P. Taylor, C. E. Hamilton and N. S. Odum.

Mt. Olivet—I. P. Newell, J. W. Newell and T. D. Newell.

Little Bear Creek No. 2—W. B. Mitchell, A. C. Hammock and Henry Bentley.

Duncan Creek—L. D. Willis, A. P. Malone, W. C. Hovater and L. C. Pace.

Liberty Hill—T. J. Jackson, W. H. Burfield, S. R. Love and John Keplinger.

Ebinezer—J. W. Cook, Wm. Goodwin and J. Dodson.

Tharp Springs—J. P. Bobo, P. T. Graves, John Tharp and G. D. McGwire.

Pleasant Grove—S. M. Gowder and T. W. Stone.

Bethsaida—J. D. Heaps, J. H. Thompson, J. A. Stout and James Isbell.

Little Bear Creek No. 1—T. O. Johnson, James Richardson and J. E. Richardson.

Election of officers for the ensuing year resulted in the choice of Elder J. S. Stockton, Moderator; and J. A. O. Bolding, Clerk.

Petitionary letters received as follows:

Sardis—S. O. Sherrill, J. W. Sherrill and J. W. Garrett, delegates.

Holley Springs—L. D. Overton, delegate.

Chuches were received and right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates by Moderator.

Corresponding delegates from Muscle Shoals Association received as follows: Elders J. O. A. Pace, T. V. Shoemaker and Brother Peter Clay. Visiting Brethren invited to seats, to wit: Elders A. W. Briscoe and W. N. Taylor.

Report of Devotional Committee:

At 11 a. m. Sunday, Elder W. C. Summers to preach in the house and Elder R. A. Gowder in the grove; at 2 p. m. Elder J. S. Stockton to preach in the house and Elder J. O. A. Pace in the grove.

Adjourned until 8:30 a. m. Monday.

SUNDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Elder W. C. Summers preached an interesting sermon from Isaiah 45, 22. Elder R. A. Gowder gave us a gospel feast from Acts 1, 8. Morning collection $5.88.

After an excellent meal given by the good people of Duncan Creek, we were all well entertained by a sermon from Elder A. W. Briscoe, text: Matt. 5; 13–15, in which he placed much stress on character. Evening collection $3.75.

SECOND DAY.

Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by W. N. Taylor.

The Executive Committee being absent the Moderator appointed the following members: W. N. Narmore, J. M. Thorn, Wm. Pace, J. M. Yocum and H. A. Malone who organized by electing J. M. Thorn Ch'm. and J. M. Yocum Sec.

Detained letters called for and received as follows:

Crooked Oak—J. A. Kimbrough, J. A. Malone and Marion Hester as delegates.

Mt. Olive—J. H. McDougle, I. M. Ayers, D. J. Isom, J. A. Partain and J. J. Frost as delegates.

Newsom Springs—G. D. Daily, W. L. Pounders and J. Stanfield delegates.

A letter of dismission was granted to Mt. Olive church.

Report of Investigating Committee read and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Investigation, find after examination, that Brethren S. M. Gowder and T. W. Stone are entitled to seats in this body.

Respectfully, B. H. James, Ch'm.

Report of Committee on Publication read and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Publication report as follows: We insist that the Bible be read more in our homes, and suggest "Bible Helps" which are published by the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn., we further suggest the reading of the "Alabama Baptist."

Respectfully, G. B. Smith, Ch'm.

Report of the Cimmittee on Destitution read, and after discussion, adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Destitution find, that there is a destitution at and West of Philcampbell, also, East of the Mississippi Line extending from Hurricane Creek to Big Bear Creek, and also, another from Pleasant Site down Cedar Creek to the Mississippi Line, thence North to Margarim. We recommend that this Association have these destitutions supplied.

Respectfully, W. C. Summers, Ch'm.

Adjourned until 1 p.m.

EVENING SESSION.

After an enjoyable repast the house was called to order by the Moderator, prayer by Elder J. O. A. Pace.

Report of Committee on State of Religion was read and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on State of Religion find, from the reports of our churches, that the state of religion is not as good as last year, we recommend that our churches have a good prayer meeting, and pray for God to bless our labors, that our state of religion may get on a higher plain in our bounds.

Respectfully, R. A. Gowder, Ch'm.

Leave of absence was granted to Brethren W. B. Mitchell and A. C. Hammock, by the body.

Report of Committee on Education read and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Education, believe, that the interest of education in the bounds of our Association has increased since last report, we should not neglect to educate our children, for in Prov. 22, 6, we find "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Good has been accomplished by educating our young Ministers, in preparing them for the Holy Work to which they have been called. All denominations are striving to educate, and we believe ours to rank among the first. We recommend the Danville High

School to be worthy of all young people who desire an education, as we know the Faculty will do to trust.

Respectfully, P. T. Graves, Ch'm.

The report of the Board of Trustees of the High School at Danville, Ala., was read in connection with above report, and its claims presented very forcibly by Elder A. W. Briscoe. Following is the report:

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HIGH SCHOOL AT DANVILLE.

Read and adopted as follows:

To the Big Bear Creek Association:—

The Board of Trustees of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Danville, Ala., offer this, their sixth annual report to your body.

The School closed its fifth session in May last, with a total enrollment of 118. We had 5 graduates in the English course at the last commencement.

The Trustees elected as Presidend of the school Rev. Josephus Shackelford, with the authority to select his own assistants. The school is now in progress under his charge with Miss Emma Shackelford as Principal of the Primary and Preparatory departments, and Miss Susie Shackelford Teacher of Music. Other teachers will be employed as the needs of the School may demand. The session opened on the 5, of September, we have enrolled up to this date 52 pupils, and the prospect is, that the number will be materially increased by the first of November. Our patronage from a distance is not as good as it was last session at this time, we can only attribute this to the failure of Baptists to take an interest in their own scool; why they do not patronize our school, we can not understand, we offer as good facilities for imparting instruction as any school within the bounds of your Association, our teachers are as competent, our prices are exceedingly moderate, and we have as healthy locality as any, where there is as good

a school. We propose to give thorough instruction, and ours is a christian school. If Baptists do not send us their children, can we expect those not Baptists to patronize the school? The President of the school offers one scholarship to the Association: the pupil to be selected by the Executive Board of the Association, male or female, this scholarship gives free tuition for the present session, to one pupil. We trust that the Executive Board will select some needy young man or woman, who will avail himself or herself of this generous offer. During the past session we had 5 young Ministers attending the school. One of the primary objects of this school is to educate young Ministers. Young men who have the ministry in view, can prepare themselves here, either to enter the Junior Class of Harvard College, or the Seminary at Louisville, Ky., they can do this also, at a small expense, compared to what they would have to pay if this preparation was made at East Lake.

We respectfully notify your body, that the term of the following Trustees expires at this session of your body, Bro. J. T. Bolding and Rev. J. S. Stockton, their places will have to be filled either by their re-appointment or the appointment of others.

Respectfully Submitted,

President of Board of Trustees.

T. L. Baker, Sec'y.

Danville, Ala., Oct. 6, 1898.

The former Trustees of the Danville School from this Association was re-appointed.

Report of Committee on Documents read and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Documents make the following report: We find twenty-seven churches represented by letters and delegates, we find twelve Sunday Schools, three Prayer Meetings, and one church asking for our next Association, viz: Crooked Oak, Colbert Co., Ala.

We earnestly request the churches of our Association to report their Sunday Schools and Prayer Meetings

Respectfully, T. J. Jackson, Ch'm.

REPORT OF MISSIONARIES.

Report of Missionaries read and adopted as follows:

Elder J. S. Stockton—To The Big Bear Creek Association, when convened:— No. of days labored 31; sermons delivered 33; miles traveled 200; and made several family visits. There seems to have been a great deal of good done, I feel very sure that the Baptists are gaining ground in my field of labor.

Respectfully Submitted, J. S. Stockton.

Elder W. C. Summers—To The Big Bear Creek Association:— Days labored 14; sermons preached 13; miles traveled, more than 100; organized 1 church and witnessed several conversions.

Respectfully Submitted, W. C. Summers.

Two Missionaries were appointed, viz: Elder W. C. Summers and Elder B. H. James for the ensuing year.

Report of Committee on Missions read and adopted as follows; We are glad to state, that our Associational mission work is doing much good, and we urge our Brethren to do more for this cause this year, in order that we may fill all the destitutions in our bounds, and do what we can for the cause of Christ at home and elsewhere.

Respectfully, R. A. Gowder, Ch'm.

Crooked Oak Church was the place selected for the next meeting of the Association.

Adjourned until 8-30; a.m. Tuesday.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Duncan Creek Church Oct. 11, '98.

After prayer, minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Report of Committee on Finance read and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Finance make the following report:

Received from various churches for minutes	$20.07
For Associational Purposes	39.25
Foreign Mission	1.10
Individual Pledges for Bro. R. L. Bendall	1.50
Total	61.92

Respectfully, J. M. Thorn Ch'm.

Individual pledges for Bro. A. P. Malone.

J L Cavanis	$5 00	B H James	$1 00
Arthur Malone pd.	1 00	Claborn Hovater pd.	25
J R Moore pd.	50	M B Borden	25
J M Thorn pd.	50	G M Worhurst	25
J W Thorn	25	T J Jackson	50
H A Malone	1 00	L C Pace	50
Fletcher Reid	25	J M Smith	50
W H Smith	50	J C Richardson	50
W T Malone	50	J A O Bolding pd.	25
		J N James	25
Total			13 75

Individual pledges for Bro. J. L. Jackson.

W C Summers pd.	$1 00	M B Borden	$ 25
W L Andrews	1 00	G M Worhurst	25
T J Jackson	50	J W Thorn	25
J N Smith	50	J M Thorn pd.	50
Fletcher Reid	25	J N James	25
J A O Bolding pd.	25		
Total			5 00

Elders W. L. Andrews and J. L. Jackson were appointed corresponding Delegates to Colbert Association.

Elder J. S. Stockton was appointed corresponding Delegate to Tombigbee Association, and to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Elder B. H. James was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session of this Association at Crooked Oak Church, Elder W. C. Summers, alternate.

PLEDGES OF CHURCHES.

Burleson	$5 00	Bethsaida	$2 50
Bethlehem	3 00	Duncan Creek	2 50
Crooked Oak	5 00	Ebinezer	2 50
Mt. Zion	5 00	Evening Shade No. 1	3 00
New Friendship	5 00	Lane Springs	2 00
Tharp Springs	2 00	Sardis	2 00
Total			39 50

The Committee on Devotion reported, that, Elder J. S. Stockton preach at 11 o' clock a. m.

Motion to adjourn until 1 p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

After a social feast business was resumed.

Report of Committee on Sabbath School read and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Sabbath School make the following report: We believe Sabbath School to be a great advantage to the church and community in improving them, in morals and the state of religion. Therefore we urge this delegation to insist on their churches to organize a Sabbath School, if they have none.

Respectfully, B. H. James, Ch'm.

Report of Committee on Temperance read and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Temperance report as follows: We think that the Church of Christ has

gained a considerable influence over this great evil, although, there is a great deal to be gained yet. We urge the delegates of Big Bear Creek Association, to use every means, in their power, to put down this great evil, and hold strict discipline among their members.

Respectfully Submitted, B. H. James, Ch'm.

The Next Union Meeting of the First District will meet with New Friendship Church, Franklin Co., Ala., on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1899. Elder B. H. James to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder J. S Stockton, alternate.

J. T. Bolding, Clerk.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions were read and adopted as follows:

Resolved, that it is the duty of this body, as it has elected two Missionaries, and have not as yet given them any instructions, that this body do now instruct their Missionaries, when to preach, where to preach, how much work to do, and how much they will receive per day.

Respectfully, W. C. Summers.

Resolved, that this body locate a point in the destitute places reported by our Committee on Destitutions, and let our two Missionaries labor there monthly, as long as we can raise means to pay them the salary necessary. The Executive Board to make the contract with our two Missionaries.

Respectfully R. A. Gowder.

Resolved, that we extend to the Duncan Creek Church and vicinity, our heart-felt thanks for their kidness and hospitality, while in their midst.

Respectfully, J. M. Yocum.

Resolved, that we allow the Clerk ten dollars, for his services, to be paid out of any means, not otherwise appropriated.

Respectfully, G. B. Smith.

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES.

G M Worhurst	$ 25	W C Summers	$1 00
R F Britnell	1 00	J L Jackson	1 00
J M Lindsey	1 00	J S Stockton	1 00
Wm Pace	1 00	B H James	1 00
W L Andrews	1 00	L C Pace	1 00
J A O Bolding pd.	50	J J Yocum .... pd.	1 00
P A Malone	1 00	Sister M C Cook	1 00
G B Smith .... pd.	50	Sister Ava E Willis	1 00
Arthur Grissom	50	J M Yocum .... pd.	50
S F Beaty	2 00	C F Flemming	1 00
M V Borden	50	J S Moore	1 50
F D Hester ....pd.	25	H A Malone	1 00
John Thorn	50	J M Pace	1 00
J A Dobbins	50	A J Willis	1 00
J P Bobo	1 00	G D McGwire	1 00
J M Utley	50	S O Sherrill	50
J W Garrett	50		
Total			28 00

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

We, your Executive Board report as follows:

Receipts:

Union Meeting, First District	$ 9 10
Union Meeting, Second District	2 15
Mt Olivet	25
Bethsaida	5 00
Tharp Springs	2 00
Evening Shade No 1	3 00
Mt Zion	2 50
Duncan Creek	2 50
New Friendship	6 00
Lane Springs	4 50
Mt Pisgah	2 00
Burleson	5 00
Bethlehem	6 00
Mt Olive	50
Minute Fund	20 07
Foreign Missions	1 10
For R L Bendall	1 50
Sunday's Collections	9 73
Total Receipts	$ 82 90

Disbursements:

To J S Stockton, Missionary	$ 31 00	
To W C Summers, Missionary	14 00	
Minute Fund Turned over to the Clerk	20 07	
To the Clerk, for his Services	10 00	
Total Disbursements	75 07	
Ballance on hand		7 83

J. M. Thorn, Ch'm.

Adjourned to meet with Crooked Oak Church, Saturday before the Second Sunday in October 1899.

J. A. O. Bolding, Clerk.
Pleasant Site, Ala.

J. S. Stockton, Mod.
Pleasant Site, Ala.

STATISTICS OF 1898.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	Post Offices.	Membership Last Reported.	Increased by: Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Decreased by: Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.	Present Membership.	Minute Fund.
BURLESON	R A Gowder	J R THORN	Burleson	130	10						2	138	$ 1 00
BETHLEHEM	M J Pace	J M YOCUM	Beeson	84	3		1	2				86	1 00
MT MORIAH	J R NeSmith	W M WILLIS	Springvalley	28	9	6		1			1	38	50
HARMONY	J S Stockton	J T BOLDING	Pleasant Sltc	60	1							61	85
EVENING SHADE NO 1	B H James	J W RIKARD	Dalley	86	2	4		2	3		1	84	1 00
BETHEL NO 2	W M Whitlock	W H BARBER		20	2						1	21	
MT ZION	B H James	J N SMITH	Russellville	33	20	10						63	1 00
DUNCAN CREEK	B H James	T J WILLIS	Russellville	182	2	3		2		74	1	110	1 00
NEW FRIENDSHIP	J S Stockton	FLETCHER REID	Belgreen	57	10			3		2		63	1 00
UNION	B G Harden	J A MCCOY	Burleson	19	2							19	45
SPRING HILL	W N Taylor	S G INGRAM	Philcampbell		11	19						50	1 00
LANE SPRINGS	J S Stockton	W H JOHNSON	Cherokee		2	4		4			1		85
MT PISGAH	J T Hurley	H A BARNETT	Philcampbell		2			1	15			49	55
MT OLIVET	T D Newell	W H SINDER	Philcampbell		3		1		3			18	25
LITTLE BEAR CREEK NO 2	J E Miller	J M MITCHELL	Fordton		8							52	85
LIBERTY HILL	W N Taylor	S R LOVE	Spruce Pine	46	6	1			4		1	48	50
EBINEZER	W H Austin	W D CLOUNCH											
THARP SPRINGS	M J Pace	T J BYERS	Russellville		30	34			1			130	2 00
PLEASANT GROVE	R A Gowder	T W STONE	Hodges	37					11			28	30
BETHSAIDA	W C Summers	S O SHERRILL	Looling									118	1 00
LITTLE BEAR CREEK NO 1	W C Summers	W R RICHARDSON	Tuscumbia	105			2	9	4			94	1 50
HOLLEY SPRINGS	R A Gowder	L J NORRIS	Burleson									20	35
SARDIS	W C Summers	J W GARRETT	Spruce Pine			4						15	50
NEWSOM SPRINGS	J M Wright	G D DAILY	Rock Creek										52
MT OLIVE	J E Miller	H F STEIFEL	Hodges		6	27			1			87	50
CROOKED OAK	F M Jackson	C H JACKSON	Frankfort					5	2		1	140	1 50
				885	125	112	4	29	44	78	9	1610	$ 19 67

15 27 / 24 / 158

83